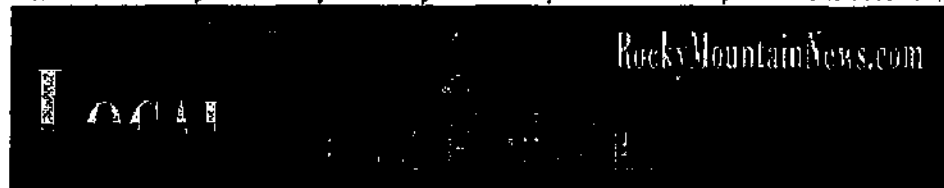
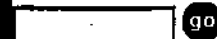


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Firm files plan to clean up smelter site

Proposal would have Asarco pay \$15 million

By Karen Abbott, Rocky Mountain News
October 8, 2004

International minerals company Asarco Inc. filed a proposed settlement with the federal and Colorado governments in U.S. court Thursday, calling for the company to pay \$15 million and clean up a Superfund site in northeast Denver.

Asarco would remove contaminated soil from residential properties in the Swansea, Elyria, Clayton and Cole neighborhoods and parts of Globeville and Curtis Park, starting with 100 properties in 2005.

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The area, near Interstate 70 and Vasquez Boulevard, is a Superfund site covering about 4 1/2 square miles. It has 4,000 residential properties, 10 schools and seven parks.

The company admits no liability in the proposed consent decree,

coverage.
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which still must be approved by a federal judge after a public comment period.

New York-based Asarco owns the site of one former smelter in the area, the Omaha and Grant Smelter, which operated from 1899 to 1903, and the Globe Smelter, which began operating in 1886.

The smelters processed numerous metals, including gold, silver, copper and lead. They produced emissions that contaminated soils in the area with lead and arsenic.

Court documents said the Environmental Protection Agency and Colorado have spent \$15 million investigating and cleaning up some of the area. They sued Asarco for the money and for the performance of further cleanup work.

The proposed settlement is similar to others reached in surrounding neighborhoods with Asarco.

In 1999, Asarco reached a \$12 million settlement with nearly 300 Globeville families, agreeing to scrape their yards clean of arsenic, lead and cadmium. Those residents lived south of I-70 between Washington Street and Interstate 25.

Globeville residents north of I-70 won \$24 million and a similar cleanup from Asarco in 1993.

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